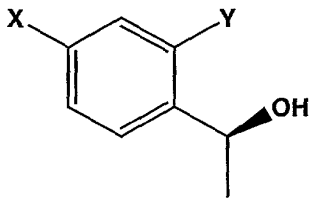
What is claimed is:

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (I)



(I)

wherein

X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, Cl, Br, I and R^1;

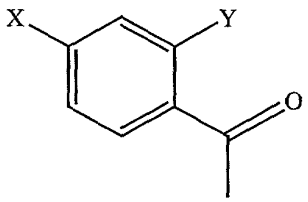
R^1 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl or $(CH_2)_nCOR^2$;

n is an integer from 1 to 10;

R^2 is OH, OR^3 or NH_2; and

R^3 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl;

by stereoselective reduction of a compound of Formula (II)



(II)

wherein

X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, Cl, Br, I and R^1;

R^1 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, or $(CH_2)_nCOR^2$;

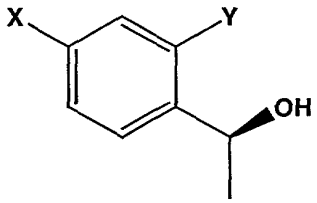
n is an integer from 1 to 10;

R^2 is OH, OR^3 or NH_2; and

R^3 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl;

by reaction with an oxidoreductase enzyme capable of catalzying the enzymatic reduction of ketones represented by Formula (II).

2. A process for the preparation of a compound of Formula (I)



(I)

wherein

X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, Cl, Br, I and R^1;

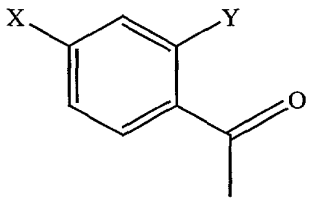
R^1 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, or $(CH_2)_nCOR^2$;

n is an integer from 1 to 10;

R^2 is OH, OR^3 or NH_2; and

R^3 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl;

by stereoselective reduction of a compound of Formula (II)



(II)

wherein

X and Y are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, Cl, Br, I and R^1;

R^1 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl , alkenyl or $(CH_2)_nCOR^2$;

n is an integer from 1 to 10;

R^2 is OH, OR^3 or NH_2; and

R^3 is substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl;

comprising reacting said compound of Formula (II) with a microorganism that supplies an oxidoreductase enzyme capable of catalzying the enzymatic reduction of ketones represented by Formula (II).

3. The process of claim 1 wherein said oxidoreductase enzyme is the *Pichia methanolica* ketoreductase of Figure 1 as expressed in *Eschericha coli*.

4. The process of claim 2 wherein said microorganism that supplies an oxidoreductase enzyme is selected from the group consisting of *Pichia methanolica* ATCC 56510, *Pichia methanolica* ATCC 56508 and *Pichia methanolica* ATCC 58403 and wherein said oxidoreductase is a ketoreductase.